

CCC INTERVIEW WITH FRED BROWN

Date: February 19, 2002

Location: Wapello, Iowa

Interviewer:

DNR: Where was your hometown?

Fred: Wapello, Iowa.

DNR: How old were you when you joined the CCC's?

Fred: 17.

DNR: What did you do before you went to the camp?

Fred: I was just making nickels and dimes.

DNR: Why did you join the CCC's?

Fred: We didn't have money to pay our back taxes. (inaudible) I got to the camp and they paid us \$5 a month.

DNR: What camp were you assigned too?

Fred: Oakdale.

DNR: Were you ever transferred?

Fred: (inaudible.) I drove an ambulance. I worked at Keosauqua.

DNR: Do you remember what year you were at Keosauqua?

Fred: Not off the top of my head.

DNR: Do you remember the first day of camp?

Fred: I dug gopher holes and put cyanide in the hole.

DNR: Were issued clothes or a physical exam?

Fred: No. (inaudible)

DNR: What kind of personal items were allowed in camp?

Fred: Toothbrush.

DNR: Did you get some things at camp?

Fred: No response.

DNR: Where did you sleep?

Fred: You would wake up with a pile of snow on your bed. Everybody in the morning would get up and get to the stove.

DNR: Who were your bunkmates?

Fred: Keith Cure. Harold Petty. Gene McCann.

DNR: How did you guys get along?

Fred: Okay.

DNR: How was the food?

Fred: I didn't see anything wrong with the food.

DNR: Who did the cooking?

Fred: A guy by the name of Garret. He was a little (inaudible).

DNR: When was payday?

Fred: End of the month.

DNR: How much did you get?

Fred: I got \$5. My mom got \$20. She paid off the taxes and saved the house.

DNR: When were your days off?

Fred: I don't know.

DNR: What did you do on your free time?

Fred: (inaudible)

DNR: Did you have personal conflicts?

Fred: Once in a while.

DNR: What did they do in the camp when that happened?

Fred: John O'Brian. (inaudible)

DNR: Were there educational or vocational training?

Fred: I got to drive an ambulance.

DNR: You did some dynamiting?

Fred: You blow a hole. (inaudible)

DNR: Did you attend any school or classes?

Fred: (inaudible) I tried but the mess hall would be closed. I would make my own supper.

DNR: Who trained you to do these jobs?

Fred: (inaudible)

DNR: You drove a truck and you ran air compressors and jack hammers. You ran the CATs on the levee on the Ohio River?

Fred: I did a lot of things. I was there a year.

DNR: They have a boat house there. Did you work on it?

Fred: (inaudible)

DNR: Do you remember any minority groups in the camp?

Fred: No. We were banded together as a group. John was a good man.

DNR: How did working at the camp benefited you?

Fred: I learned how to run a drag line, drive an ambulance, (inaudible), this that and the other?

DNR: Were you ever injured or sick?

Fred: We had a horse doctor. (inaudible)

DNR: They took your appendix out?

Fred: They told me what to do.

DNR: Did you have any work in the local community?

Fred: No.

DNR: Did you belong to any Masonic organizations?

Fred: No.

DNR: Did you have much contact with the community?

Fred: Oh yeah. (inaudible)

DNR: How did the local boys think about you guys?

Fred: They didn't dare attack us.

DNR: You were running a dozer crew and a dynamite crew, so they didn't want to mess with you?

Fred: (inaudible)

DNR: Did you get leader pay?

Fred: (inaudible) You had to polish your shoes. I think it was (inaudible)

DNR: What did they do if you didn't follow orders?

Fred: You became a KPer.

DNR: Do you have one memorable experience in camp?

Fred: (inaudible)

DNR: What was your biggest accomplishment in camp?

Fred: (inaudible).

DNR: How do you think your life was changed?

Fred: I don't think it changed a lot. (inaudible)

DNR: What did you do after you left the CCC's?

Fred: I went to ballgames, different games. (inaudible).

DNR: Where did you work after you left the CCC camp?

Fred: (inaudible).

DNR: What was your job?

Fred: I built (inaudible) in Oakville on setbacks. I worked a hydraulic steamer.

DNR: Any other statements regarding the CCC camp?

Fred: It could make you or break you.

DNR: Do you remember the number of the camp at Oakvale?

Fred: (inaudible)

END OF TRANSCRIPT – SAM J. HAIM - Scribe